

**Amendments to the Drawing:**

Please replace the Drawing Figure with the one attached on the separate sheet herewith.

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-6, as amended, will be pending.

The amendments in claim 1 delete the reference numerals taken from the drawing.

In addition, a new, revised, drawing is submitted, under cover of letter to the Official Draftsperson, which responds to the "objection" to the drawing and provides further clarity by illustrating the subject matter disclosed in the specification. The specification is amended to reflect the drawing changes.

More specifically, the revised drawing includes a "blow-up" of a portion or segment of twisted rope yarns forming a secondary strand and a "blow-up" of a laid-up primary strand.

Since only a single drawing is provided, the designation as "Fig. 1" is deleted.

The specification is also amended to include section headings.

Accordingly, the objection to the specification no longer applies and should be withdrawn.

No new matter is introduced by the amendments to the specification, drawing and claims.

With regard to the merits, claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ryan, U.S. 5,901,632.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Ryan discloses a braided rope which is constructed of a plurality of individual strands, each of which is, itself, a braided member (see, col. 4, lines 66-67, col. 5, line 1). These ropes are formed by a braider machine which forms braids. More particularly, the braided rope of Ryan twists a plurality of fibers to form individual twisted yarns which are then braided together by a braiding machine to form braided strands. These braided strands are then braided together to form the finished rope (see, e.g., col. 5, lines 15-21).

There is no disclosure by Ryan of a rope wherein all rope elements (with the optional exception of the primary strands; compare, e.g., claims 2 and 3) are laid-up, rather than from all (with the exception of the initial rope strands) braided elements, as in Ryan.

In fact, Ryan actually, specifically, teaches away from the present invention. Thus, at col. 6, lines 1-4, the patentee states that,

“braided ropes constructed in accordance with the present invention, are able to achieve significantly higher tensile strength than is possible with a twisted strand rope constructed to have the same body and coherence....”

As such, the practitioner, of ordinary skill, would not have been motivated by Ryan to construct an endless rope, as claimed in claims 1-6, wherein all rope elements, with the possible exception of the primary strands (which may be laid-up or braided), are laid-up, twisted strands.

More over, as readily apparent from the examples and comparative examples in the specification of the subject application, the endless rope, according to an embodiment of the present invention, is about 26% stronger than a similar rope made from braided material. This result would not have been obvious or expected in view of Ryan.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6, as originally filed, and as amended, would not have been obvious in view of Ryan.

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 1, 2006  
Attachments: Marked-Up Copy of Drawing Figure  
Clean Copy of Drawing Figure

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